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14. The improvement as set forth in claim 13, wherein each guard frame comprises four frame segments interconnected to form a rectangle.

15. A security grating assembly comprising, in combination:

- a retention frame adapted for attachment to a building structure in a protective position adjacent a window opening in the building structure, the retention frame including horizontal and vertical frame segments bordering a substantial portion of the window opening when the retention frame is attached in the protective position, the retention frame being dimensioned for installation within the window opening and inset from the rectangular window frame when installed in the protective position;
- a security grating including a plurality of guard frames disposed in concentric relation with each other, each guard frame including frame segments joined together in end-to-end relation thereby forming a polygon with three or more corners, and including linking bars extending obliquely to the frame segments and joining diagonally adjacent corners of the concentric guard frames;
- a hinge assembly coupling the security grating to the retention frame to permit movement of the security grating from a closed position in which the security grating opposes entrance movement through the retention frame, to an open position permitting exit movement through the retention frame;

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- a latch assembly for releasably locking the security grating onto the retention frame assembly in the closed position, the latch assembly including latch receivers mounted on the retention frame and security grating, an actuator arm urged by the force of gravity into latched engagement with the latch receivers and a release handle attached to the actuator arm for manually disengaging the actuator arm from the latch assembly, wherein the actuator arm is disposed upright and overlaps a first portion of the retention frame in the protective position and the release handle extends substantially at a right angle to the actuator arm and overlaps a second portion of the retention frame; and
- a utility hook attached to the release handle, wherein the utility hook depends from the release handle and overlaps the window opening in the protective position, whereby the latch receivers, actuator arm and release handle are accessible to an occupant inside the building structure but are concealed from observers looking through the window opening from a location external of the building structure, and the utility hook and release handle can be quickly located and operated by an occupant to release the security grating during an emergency that may arise during hours of darkness or when the room is filled with smoke under zero visibility conditions.

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